



## NGC News

### Modern Chinese Varieties: 2004 Gold 50Y Monkey

This is the 21st installment of our monthly column devoted to modern Chinese varieties.

[Read this article...](#)

### NGC Registry News

*By Collectors Society*

Check out the latest sets and slots added to the NGC Registry.

[Read this article...](#)

### NGC Accepting Submissions at Whitman Baltimore Winter Expo

Drop off your NGC submissions at booth #1221, November 3–5!

[Read this article...](#)

### 2016 Ronald Reagan Coin and Chronicles Set Pedigree

NGC will assign the COIN AND CHRONICLES SET pedigree to the coins and medal from this set.

[Read this article...](#)

### NGC Ancients: Unusual Bactrian Portraits

The royal busts of the Indo-Greek kings are often adorned with unusual helmets and headdresses.

[Read this article...](#)

### Counterfeit Detection: 1920 Pilgrim Tercentenary Commemorative

The relatively crude forgery of a 1920 Pilgrim Tercentenary Half Dollar shows extensive loss of detail throughout.

[Read this article...](#)

### USA Coin Album: The Mint Act of February 28, 1878

This controversial law marked the return of standard silver dollars.

[Read this article...](#)

### Chinese Pandas: Friendship Pandas

*By Peter Anthony*

Olympic Participation Medals and Show Pandas exemplify the spirit of friendship.

[Read this article...](#)

### From the NGC Archives: 1855 Bronze Pattern Cent J-168, P193

The 1850s were a decade in which the US Mint made many experiments with the nation's coinage.

[Read this article...](#)



- Submit directly to NGC
- Online submission forms and order tracking
- Memberships from \$39/yr

[Join Today >](#)

NGC-certified world coins will be shown at Maison-Palombo SA Geneva auction 15, which will be held October 22.

[Read this article...](#)

### NGC-graded Coins Featured in Geneva Sale

NGC-certified coins will be featured at the October NumisOr auction.

[Read this article...](#)

### NGC Highlights in Polish Auction

NGC-certified coins will be available at Niemczyk Antykwariat Numizmatyczny's October sale.

[Read this article...](#)

Visit our affiliated websites:



*Official Grading Service of*



---

800-NGC-COIN | [www.NGCcoin.com](http://www.NGCcoin.com) | © 2014

Numismatic Guaranty Corporation | P.O. Box 4738 | Sarasota, FL 34230

# Modern Chinese Varieties: 2004 Gold 50Y Monkey

Posted on 10/11/2016

*This is the 21st installment of our monthly column devoted to modern Chinese varieties.*

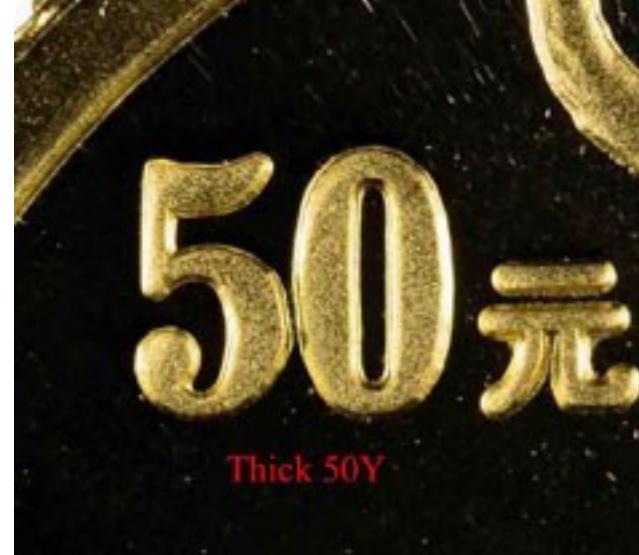
This month we will feature the 2004 Gold 50Y Monkey coins. They can be found with either a thin or thick 50Y on the reverse of the coin.

This is an example of the thin G50Y variety with a close-up on the right side (**Photos 1 & 2**).



Thin 2004 Gold 50Y Monkey (obverse) (**left**) and close up of thin 50Y (**right**)  
*Click images to enlarge.*

This is an example of the thick G50Y variety with a close-up on the right side (**Photos 3 & 4**).



Thick 2004 Gold 50Y Monkey (obverse) (**left**) and close up of thick 50Y (**right**)  
*Click images to enlarge.*

Both of these coins share a common obverse featuring another version of the Monkey and the date (**Photo 5**).



2004 Gold 50Y Monkey (reverse)  
*Click image to enlarge.*

Look for another interesting variety to be featured next month.

## Articles List

NGC is the Official Grading Service of

AMERICAN  
NUMISMATIC  
ASSOCIATION

P·N·G

NGC is an Approved Grading Company of

MA•SHOPS  
Collector Online Mall

ebay

SIXBID.COM  
EXPERTS IN NUMISMATIC AUCTIONS

View All >



# NGC Registry News

Posted by Collectors Society on 10/11/2016

*Check out the latest sets and slots added to the NGC Registry.*

It's been a busy start of the fall season at the NGC offices. We are so pleased to see all of the requests coming in for so many new sets and slots! We appreciate your feedback about your collecting interests, so we can ensure the [NGC Registry](#) remains the best and most vibrant community in which you may share your numismatic treasures. We have added so many new options this month. Please check out some of the latest additions, listed below.



Annual Awards Reminder: December 1, 2016, at 10 a.m. is the deadline to make any changes for consideration for the [2016 Annual NGC Registry Awards](#). After 10 a.m. on December 1, any changes you make to your Registry sets, such as adding or replacing coins, photos, or comments, etc., will not be considered for this year's awards. You need not do anything to be considered for the awards. We will assess all sets that have been created by you, our valued collectors. We appreciate all of our participants' efforts and look forward to viewing your unique collections. We will announce the winners on Friday, January 6, 2017.

## New Categories:

- Brunei

## New Sets:

- US: Tokens and Medals: 2016 American Liberty Medals, Proof
- Austria: Franz Joseph I, Florin, 1857-1865, Circulation Issue
- Austria: Franz Joseph I, Florin, 1866, Complete Circulation Issue
- Austria: Franz Joseph I, Florin, 1867-1872, Complete Circulation Issue
- Austria: Franz Joseph I, Florin, 1872-1892, Complete Circulation Issue

- Austria: Reform Coinage Type Set, 1923-1924, Complete Circulation
- Brunei: Sen Type Set, 1967-Date, Circulation Issue
- Brunei: Silver Sen, 1987-Date, Proof
- Brunei: 5 Sen, Type Set, 1967-Date, Circulation Issue
- Brunei: Silver 5 Sen, 1987-Date, Proof
- Brunei: 10 Sen, Type Set, 1967-Date, Circulation Issue
- Brunei: Silver 10 Sen, 1987-Date, Proof
- Brunei: 20 Sen, Type Set, 1967-Date, Circulation Issue
- Brunei: Silver 20 Sen, 1987-Date, Proof
- Brunei: 50 Sen, Type Set, 1967-Date, Circulation Issue
- Brunei: Silver 50 Sen, 1987-Date, Proof
- Brunei: One Dollar, 1970-Date, Complete Circulation Issue
- Brunei: One Dollar, 1970-Date, Complete Proof
- Brunei: Two Dollars, 1999-Date, Proof
- Brunei: Three Dollars, 1997-Date, Proof
- Brunei: Ten Dollars, 1977-Date, Complete Proof
- Brunei: Silver Twenty Dollars, 1987-Date, Proof
- Brunei: Silver Thirty Dollars, 1997-Date, Proof
- Brunei: Silver Fifty Dollars, 1980-Date, Proof
- Brunei: Gold 100 Dollars, 1987-Date, Proof
- Brunei: Gold 200 Dollars, 1999-Date, Proof
- Chile: Silver Peso, 1867-1891, Circulation Issue
- Chile: Silver Peso, 1853-1862, Circulation Issue
- Chile: Silver Peso, Type Set, 1895-1932, Circulation Issue
- Chile: Gold Peso, 1860-1864, Circulation Issue
- Chile: Gold 2 Peso, 1856-1865, Circulation Issue
- Chile: Gold 2 Peso, 1867-1875, Circulation Issue
- Chile: Gold 5 Peso Type Set, 1851-1911, Circulation Issue
- Chile: Gold 10 Peso Type Set, 1851-1901, Circulation Issue
- Chile: Gold 20 Peso Type Set, 1896-1976, Circulation Issue
- Chile: Gold 50 Peso, 1926-1974, Circulation Issue
- Chile: Gold 100 Peso, 1926-1980, Circulation Issue
- China - Commemorative: Gold 200 Yuan, 2001-Date, Proof
- Egypt: Hussein Kamil, Complete Type Set, 1914-1917, Mint State
- Egypt: Farouk, Complete Type Set, 1936-1952, Mint State
- Egypt: Fuad I, Complete Type Set, 1922-1936, Mint State
- Fiji: Silver \$1, 2010-Date, Proof
- Macau: Silver 100 Patacas, 1978-Date, Proof
- Macau: Grand Prix 25th Anniversary Set, 1978, Proof
- Macau: Grand Prix 35th Anniversary Set, 1988, Proof
- Macau: Grand Prix 40th Anniversary Set, 1993, Proof

- Macau: Grand Prix 50th Anniversary Set, 2003, Proof
- Niue: Gold \$250, 1987-Date, Proof
- Peru: Silver Type Set, 1863-1935, Circulation Issue
- Poland: Gold 500 Zlotych, 1995-2008, Golden Eagle, Mint State
- Poland: Gold 500 Zlotych, 2012-Date, Proof
- Portugal: Escudo, Bronze, 1969-1979, Circulation Issue
- Portugal: Escudo, Nickel-Brass, 1981-1986, Circulation Issue
- Portugal: Escudo, Nickel-Brass, 1986-2000, Circulation Issue
- Russia: Silver 2 Rouble, Reform coinage 1998-Date, Proof
- Solomons: Silver \$5, 2000-Date, Proof

**Some of the many new slots can be found here:**

- US: Commemoratives: Modern Commemoratives, 1982-Date, Mint State & Specimen
- US: Commemoratives: Modern Commemoratives, 1982-Date, Complete
- US: Modern Commemoratives, 1982-Date, Proofs
- US: Modern Commemoratives, 1982-Date, Complete
- Australia - Bullion: Silver \$8, 5 oz, 2011-Date, Complete Proof
- Australia - Bullion, Kangaroo Silver Dollars, Reduced Size 2004-Date Proof
- Canada - Bullion: Silver Maple Leafs, Privy Marks Issues, Complete
- Canada - Bullion: Silver Maple Leafs - 1988-Date, Complete, Including Varieties
- Canada - Commemorative: Silver \$5, Commemorative Issues, 1973-Date, Proof
- Canada - Commemorative: Silver \$5, Commemorative Issues, 1973-Date, Complete
- Canada - Commemorative: Silver \$15, 1992-Date, Complete Proof and Prooflike
- Canada - Commemorative: Silver \$25, 2007-Date, Specimen & Proof
- China - Panda: several
- China - People's Republic: 2 Fen, 1980-2000, Proof Issue
- China - People's Republic: Jiao, 1980-2000, Proof Issue
- China - Commemorative: Silver 10 Yuan, 1998-Date, Proof
- China - Commemorative: Classic Gardens Medals, 2010-Date, Proof
- Great Britain - Type Sets: Sixpence Type Set, William III - Elizabeth II, Circulation Issue
- Niue: Silver \$1, 2012, Proof
- Niue: Silver \$1, 2013, Proof
- Niue: Silver \$1, 2014, Proof
- Niue: Silver \$1, 2015, Proof

- Niue: Silver \$1, 2016, Proof
- Niue: Silver \$1, 2007-Date, Proof and Prooflike
- Niue: Silver \$2, 2006-Date, Proof and Prooflike
- Niue: Silver \$2, Disney Characters, 2014-Date, Proof
- Niue: Silver \$2, 2012, Proof
- Niue: Silver \$2, 2013, Proof
- Niue: Silver \$2, 2014, Proof
- Niue: Silver \$2, 2016, Proof
- Poland: Danzig Free City, 1923-1939, Proof Issues, Complete Set
- Portugal: John V, Type Set, 1712-1750, Circulation Issue
- Somalia: African Wildlife Series 2004-Date, Complete Silver Issues
- Tuvalu: Ships that Never Sailed Series Silver Dollars, 2013-Date, Proof

Do you have an NGC-certified coin in your hand and you're not sure where it may fit in the NGC Registry? We are here to help with requests and with other questions you may have. Feel free to send us an email, and let us know exactly how we can help. Reach us easily via email at [registry@NGCcoin.com](mailto:registry@NGCcoin.com).

If you're not familiar with the [NGC Registry](#), take some time to explore it, and see the many collecting options that are available. It is completely complimentary. If you have any questions, you may also click below for our help page:

## [NGC COLLECTION MANAGER and REGISTRY HELP -- Table of Contents](#)

### [Articles List](#)

NGC is the Official Grading Service of



NGC is an Approved Grading Company of



[View All >](#)





[Careers](#) [Legal](#) [Privacy Policy](#) [Security Center](#) [Sitemap](#) [Terms](#) [Affiliates](#) [Contact](#)

© 2018 Numismatic Guaranty Corporation

# NGC Accepting Submissions at Whitman Baltimore Winter Expo

Posted on 10/4/2016

*Drop off your NGC submissions at booth #1221, November 3–5!*

NGC will be accepting regular submissions for all service levels\* at the [Whitman Baltimore Winter Expo](#), at the Baltimore Convention Center in Baltimore, Maryland starting on Thursday, November 3 - noon on Saturday, November 5, 2016. NGC will be at Booth 1221. Check with show staff for cut-off time. **Cut-off time may change due to submission volumes.** All submissions will be sent to our office in Sarasota, FL. Services include World Services, Ancient Coin Services, Bulk, PHOTO PROOF® and more. Check with show representatives for details.

## Note:

- Due to the special handling required, NGC does not accept submissions of the following coins at this show for regular service submissions to be returned to the NGC offices: coins for First/Early Releases designations, coins NGC requires submitted in original Mint sealed packing, coins over 3.5" (90 mm) in diameter and .39" (10 mm) in depth, Coin & Chronicles sets, Coin & Currency sets, March of Dimes 3-coin set, West Point 2-coin set, San Francisco 2-coin Proof set, 30th Anniversary Eagles, 25th Anniversary Eagles, 20th Anniversary Eagles, American Liberty Series and 10th Anniversary Platinum Sets. These submissions must be sent directly to Sarasota, FL, by the submitter.

\*Does not include 5-ounce coins.

Questions should be directed to NGC customer service at [service@NGCcoin.com](mailto:service@NGCcoin.com) or 1-800-NGC-COIN (642-2646).

Visit our table for answers to any questions about the services offered by NGC.  
Please remember that NGC does not provide opinions or free evaluations of coins  
at trade shows.

*NGC is the official grading service of the ANA and PNG.*

## Articles List

*NGC is the Official Grading Service of*



*NGC is an Approved Grading Company of*

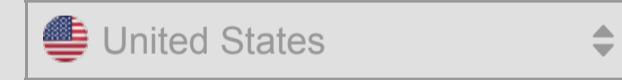


[View All >](#)



[Careers](#) [Legal](#) [Privacy Policy](#) [Security Center](#) [Sitemap](#) [Terms](#) [Affiliates](#) [Contact](#)

© 2018 Numismatic Guaranty Corporation



# 2016 Ronald Reagan Coin and Chronicles Set Pedigree

Posted on 10/7/2016

*NGC will assign the COIN AND CHRONICLES SET pedigree to the coins and medal from this set.*

The [Ronald Reagan Coin and Chronicles Set](#) goes on sale at noon on October 11. Limited to a maximum of 150,000 sets, it includes a **Reverse Proof** 2016-S Reagan Presidential Dollar, a 2016-W 30th Anniversary Proof Silver Eagle and a 1 1/2 inch Ronald and Nancy Reagan Bronze Congressional Medal.

The Reverse Proof 2016-S Reagan Presidential Dollar is unique to this set. Fittingly, the set also includes the recently released 2016-W Proof Silver Eagle, which features a lettered edge to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the American Silver Eagle, introduced in 1986 during Reagan's second term as president.



The coins and medal in this set may be submitted to NGC for the "COIN AND CHRONICLES SET" pedigree. In addition, both the coins and medal will be eligible for Early Releases or First Releases if received by NGC within 30 days of its release for an additional fee of \$15 per coin. Check the NGC website for Early Releases/First Releases [cutoff dates](#).

## Submission Instructions:

- The coins and medal must be submitted in the **original mint sealed shipping box** in order to be eligible for the pedigree.
- All coins and medals submitted must be graded. You cannot choose to have only the coins graded.
- Select the **Modern** tier or higher and select **Special Designation / Label** and check either **Early Releases** or **First Releases**. Check the NGC website for Early Releases/First Releases **cutoff** dates. Special Designation / Label must be selected for the COIN AND CHRONICLES pedigree even if Early Releases or First Releases is not desired or if coins are received after the cutoff date for those designations. **The 5-coin minimum requirement for the Modern tier is waived.**
- The default label for the dollar, Silver Eagle and medal from this set will be NGC's **Presidential** label.



- The default designation will be **Early Releases** if the dollar, Silver Eagle and medal qualify.
- If you would like the capsules returned, select “Return packaging” on the submission form(s).
- The 2016-S Ronald Reagan Presidential Dollar and the 2016-W 30th Anniversary Proof Silver Eagle may be submitted for the black **NGC Retro Holder**. Coins for the NGC Retro Holder must be submitted on a separate submission form. **Please note that the NGC Retro Holder is not available for the Bronze Congressional Medal.**

Questions? Contact NGC Customer Service at [service@NGCcoin.com](mailto:service@NGCcoin.com) or 1-800-NGC-COIN (1-800-642-2646). For bulk submission rates, contact [Scott Heller](#) or [Miles Standish](#).

Collectors Society paid members can submit their coins directly to NGC. Not an

NGC Collectors Society member? Paid memberships start at just \$39/year. [Join today.](#)

## Articles List

NGC is the Official Grading Service of



NGC is an Approved Grading Company of



[Careers](#) [Legal](#) [Privacy Policy](#) [Security Center](#) [Sitemap](#) [Terms](#) [Affiliates](#) [Contact](#)

© 2018 Numismatic Guaranty Corporation



# NGC Ancients: Unusual Bactrian Portraits

Posted on 10/11/2016

*The royal busts of the Indo-Greek kings are often adorned with unusual helmets and headdresses.*

Among the most interesting and diverse portraits on ancient ‘Greek’ coinage are those of the Indo-Greek kings of Bactria, a region on the fringe of the Greek world. In addition to the portraits themselves, which many times have expressive and highly individualized features, these royal busts often are adorned with unusual helmets and headdresses.

For a base line we’ll start with a Bactrian portrait coin that has a ‘normal’ portrait – one adorned only with a royal diadem, a head band worn by Greek kings. Below is a silver tetradrachm of King Agathocles (c.185-180/70 B.C.) with just such a portrait.



Agathocles Tetradrachm  
*Click image to enlarge.*

Perhaps topping the list of unusual head adornments in Bactria is the elephant scalp. It is best known on the coins of King Demetrius I (c.200-185 B.C.), which are readily available to collectors. The one illustrated here, a silver tetradrachm,

shows a detailed image of the elephant scalp, with the ears, eyes, trunk and tusks all engraved in a realistic manner. Note the royal diadem that overlaps the bottom edge of the scalp.



Demetrius I Tetradrachm  
*Click image to enlarge.*

King Lysias (c.130-125 B.C.) also issued coins on which he portrays himself wearing an elephant scalp. The coin shown below, a silver drachm, is smaller than the earlier tetradrachm of Demetrius I, so the detail is less fully realized. None the less, the royal diadem is still clear.



Lysias Drachm  
*Click image to enlarge.*

These Bactrian versions very likely were derived from an earlier coinage struck by Ptolemy I, who ruled Egypt after the death of Alexander III the Great, initially as satrap (323-305/4 B.C.), and then as king (305/4-282 B.C.). Though the meaning of this headdress has been much discussed, it seemingly reflects the successes that Alexander III enjoyed during his eastern campaigns.



Ptolemy I  
*Click image to enlarge.*

Next is the petasus or causia, a distinctive Greek hat made of a soft material that was used primarily as a sun hat. Despite this rather humble, rural associations, it was worn by the messenger-god Hermes, and at different times was donned by Greek kings. Shown below is a tetradrachm of the Bactrian King Antimachus I (c.180-165 B.C.), who portrayed himself wearing a petasus and his royal diadem.



Antimachus Tetradrachm  
*Click image to enlarge.*

Also shown wearing a petasus and a diadem is King Apollodotus I (c.180-160 B.C.). It is interesting to note how this king wears his cap tilted more upright than did his contemporary Antimachus I. This gives the portrait an entirely different appeal.



Apollodotus I Tetradrachm  
*Click image to enlarge.*

The petasus appears on numerous other coins of the Greek world, including the silver triobol, shown below, which was struck c.250-145 B.C. by the Aetolian League in central Greece. In this case the petasus adorns the head of the personification of the region of Aetolia.



Aetolian League Triobol

Many other portraits of Bactrian kings are adorned with a helmet, though in this far-flung region the helmet of choice was not of the familiar Attic or Corinthian type, but one that very closely resembles a pith helmet that achieved such great popularity in the British Empire in the late 19th and the early 20th Centuries. Shown below is a silver tetradrachm on which this type of helmet is worn by King Eucratides I (c.170-145 B.C.).



Eucratides Tetradrachm  
*Click image to enlarge.*

Unlike the much later British version, we might presume the Bactrian version shown on coins was made of metal. On this depiction the top of the helmet is adorned with a horse-hair crest, and the tails of the royal diadem are seen trailing from the back. Below are drachms of King Menander (c.165/55-130 B.C.), who wears a more decorative version, and the aforementioned King Lysias, whose helmet more closely resembles the version used by Eucratides.



Menander Drachm  
*Click image to enlarge.*



Interested in reading more articles on Ancient coins? [Click here](#)

Images courtesy of CNG.

[Articles List](#)

NGC is the Official Grading Service of



NGC is an Approved Grading Company of



[View All >](#)



[Careers](#) [Legal](#) [Privacy Policy](#) [Security Center](#) [Sitemap](#) [Terms](#) [Affiliates](#) [Contact](#)

© 2018 Numismatic Guaranty Corporation

# Counterfeit Detection: 1920 Pilgrim Tercentenary Commemorative

Posted on 10/11/2016

*The relatively crude forgery of a 1920 Pilgrim Tercentenary Half Dollar shows extensive loss of detail throughout.*

In recent years, the “Classic” Commemorative series has become increasingly popular. These coins were first issued in 1892 to celebrate the Chicago World’s Columbian Exposition, with nearly a million Columbian half dollars sold in that first year. The series continued for another 62 years to commemorate a total of 48 different subjects. Most of the commemorative coins issued were silver half dollars, but there was also an 1893 Isabella Quarter, a 1900 Lafayette Dollar and a handful of gold pieces, including two incredible \$50 pieces.

Due to the popularity of the series and the rarity of many pieces, counterfeits exist of many issues and are seen from time-to-time by NGC. For example, NGC recently encountered a fake 1920 Pilgrim Tercentenary Half Dollar, one of the earlier issues in the Classic Commemorative series. This attractive coin features William Bradford, who governed the Plymouth Colony a total of five times. The reverse depicts the Mayflower sailing west towards the New World.



Counterfeit 1920 Pilgrim Tercentenary Half Dollar  
*Click images to enlarge.*

The relatively crude forgery examined by NGC shows extensive loss of detail throughout. The letters are poorly defined and seem to flow gently into the fields. Note the lack of detail in the hair, arm and book, as well as in the masts and side of the ship on the reverse. Additionally, the D between HALF and DOLLAR (for designer Cyrus E. Dallin, not the Denver Mint) is almost completely gone. Lastly, the surface of the coin has a very odd, unnatural look. Compare the coin above to the one below.



Genuine 1920 Pilgrim Tercentenary Half Dollar  
*Click images to enlarge.*

As you can see, the genuine example looks much better than the fake. The authentic coin has great luster and a strong strike. A close look reveals just how much more detail the genuine example has.



Close-up of Counterfeit (Left) and Genuine (Right) 1920 Pilgrim Tercentenary Half Dollars  
*Click images to enlarge.*

On the spurious coin (left), the lines on the book are essentially nonexistent. Additionally, the sharp lines of Bradford's hat and clothing are reduced to mush through the die-transfer process. The difference is even more apparent on the reverse.



Close-up of Counterfeit (Left) and Genuine (Right) 1920 Pilgrim Tercentenary Half Dollars  
*Click images to enlarge.*

The fake example was struck with such little pressure that some of the high points were not even struck. This is evidenced by the yellowish color on the masts. Also note how the back right corner of the ship was essentially completely lost in the transfer. Lastly, while you can see the wooden planks making up the side of the ship on the genuine example, they are missing on the fake, as are the railings of the deck.

This counterfeit was not a particularly good one, but it can still fool an unsuspecting or novice collector. When buying a coin, it is essential that you know what genuine examples are supposed to look like so that you can spot the counterfeits. In addition, it is helpful to be able to tell when weak details are the result of a soft strike instead of wear. If you have any doubt, or if you are still learning, remember that it is always safest to buy a certified coin that is guaranteed to be genuine and accurately graded.

## Articles List

NGC is the Official Grading Service of



NGC is an Approved Grading Company of



[View All >](#)



[Careers](#) [Legal](#) [Privacy Policy](#) [Security Center](#) [Sitemap](#) [Terms](#) [Affiliates](#) [Contact](#)

© 2018 Numismatic Guaranty Corporation



# USA Coin Album: The Mint Act of February 28, 1878

Posted on 10/11/2016

*This controversial law marked the return of standard silver dollars.*

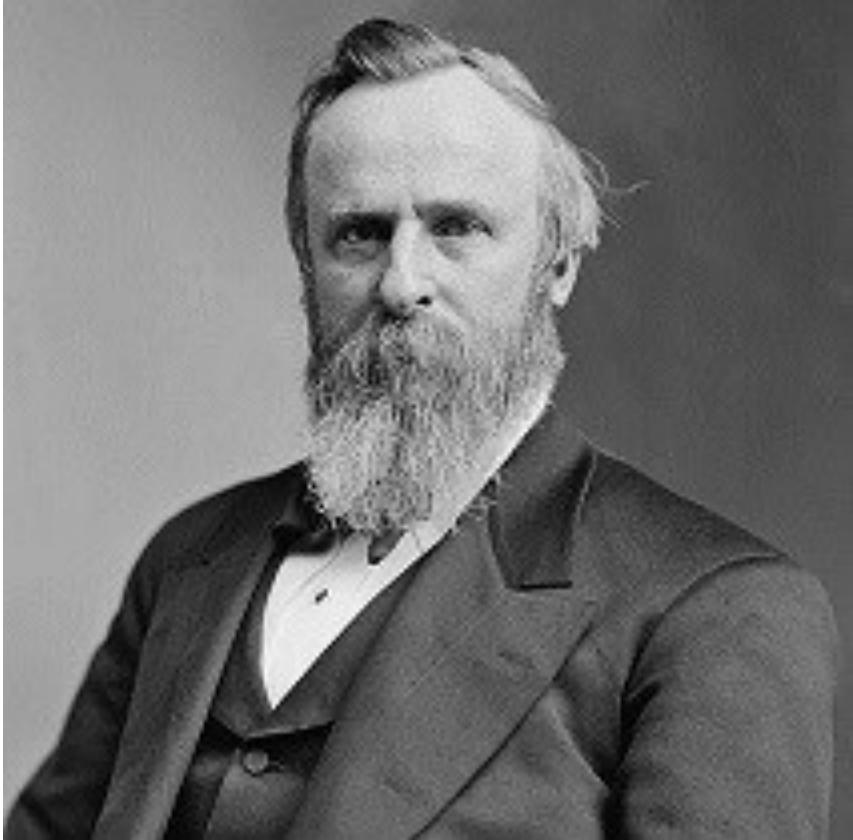
High on the list of collectors' favorite coin series is the Morgan silver dollar of 1878-1921. There's reason to believe that it may have surpassed



*Click images to enlarge.*

Lincoln cents as the United States coin most widely collected by date and mint. It's also fair to say, however, that few really understand how this coin came to be.

The silver dollar of 416 grains gross weight had been part of America's original coin lineup as established in 1792, though the inability of the US Mint's assayer and coiner to post their security bonds held up the production of this denomination until the fall of 1794. Initially, the silver fineness of our silver coins was an impossibly awkward figure of .892427. It was not until 1837, when the gross weight of the silver dollar was reduced to 412.5 grains, that the fineness was legally raised to .900. Thus it remained for the next 36 years. As it is, the coins struck under this law enjoyed only limited domestic circulation and were seldom produced in significant numbers. In 1873 Congress passed a sweeping reform of the Mint codes, and this act also recognized the obsolescence of several coin issues. The law did not state any words to the effect that no more standard silver dollars would be coined; instead, it specified those coins that were a part of the new roster, and the standard dollar was simply omitted.



*Representative Richard P. Bland  
Click image to enlarge.*

Little notice was taken of this exclusion at the time, as both Congress and the American public were instead pre-occupied with the newly authorized trade dollar of 420 grains. It was not until the price of silver began to plunge a few years later that western mining interests and their congressmen began denouncing the “Crime of '73.” Their motivation was purely selfish, as they wanted the Mint to buy more silver to help prop up its price and maintain its high

profile. As early as 1876 the House of Representatives had twice passed a bill restoring free coinage of the standard silver dollar, but it was defeated in the Senate until 1878. In that year, Missouri Representative Richard P. Bland found an advocate in Iowa Senator William B. Allison, and both houses passed what became known as the Bland-Allison Act. President Rutherford B. Hayes recognized a boondoggle when he saw one, and he quickly vetoed the bill. Nevertheless, Congress summoned enough votes to overrule the Hayes decision, and the Bland-Allison Act became law on February 28, 1878.

This law provided for the restoration of the silver dollar at its 1837 standard and also mandated that the Treasury purchase from two to four million ounces of silver monthly at market prices. This bullion was to be coined into said dollars to the extent that the value of the unused bullion never exceeded five million dollars. All such silver dollars enjoyed unlimited legal tender status and could be exchanged for silver certificate notes in sums not less than 10 dollars. This prompted the first issue of silver certificates in the nation's history, the notes being dated 1878 and printed in denominations of 10 through 1000 dollars.

The story of the Mint's struggle to create and fine tune the new silver dollar coins themselves is beyond the scope of a single column. More germane to the present study is what effect the Bland-Allison Act had on the Mint itself. Not only did the coining of several million silver dollars monthly overtax the rolling mills, presses and other equipment, but the fact that these coins were not actually needed in commerce led to most of the pieces being simply bagged and stored onsite. When the vaults of the various minting facilities had been filled, the overflow ended up stacked up in hallways and courtyards, creating both a nuisance and a theft risk.

The New Orleans Mint, dormant since 1861, was reactivated in 1879 to both strike and store many of these unwanted coins.

Over the years, many writers have claimed that it was the huge mintages of silver dollars starting in 1878 that led to a near suspension in the coining of fractional silver coins around the same time. This is not even partially true, though the Mint was probably relieved that a legitimate reason presented itself at this time of urgency. The fact is that the falling price of silver after 1873 eventually led to the return of many millions of half dimes, dimes, quarters and halves that had been circulating outside of the country since 1862. A law passed in 1876 for the redemption of fractional paper money had limited the total of fractional notes and fractional silver coin in circulation to just \$50 million. This figure was quickly reached with the returning coins, and the Mint could not legally create more fractional pieces in excess of that total.

The rapid growth of America's economy after 1878 soon made this figure unrealistic, and within a few years the demand for additional coin led to a general disregard of the long-forgotten provision. It was not until 1906 that this embarrassing situation was properly addressed—the US attorney general ruled that the broader Mint Act of 1873 took precedence over its annoying 1876 codicil, and he waived the \$50 million limit.

*David W. Lange's column, "USA Coin Album," appears monthly in The Numismatist, the official publication of the [American Numismatic Association](#).*

[Articles List](#)

NGC is the Official Grading Service of



NGC is an Approved Grading Company of

[catawiki](#)

[ebay](#)

[SIXBID.COM](#)  
EXPERTS IN NUMISMATIC AUCTIONS

[View All >](#)



[Careers](#) [Legal](#) [Privacy Policy](#) [Security Center](#) [Sitemap](#) [Terms](#) [Affiliates](#) [Contact](#)

© 2018 Numismatic Guaranty Corporation

 United States



# Chinese Pandas: Friendship Pandas

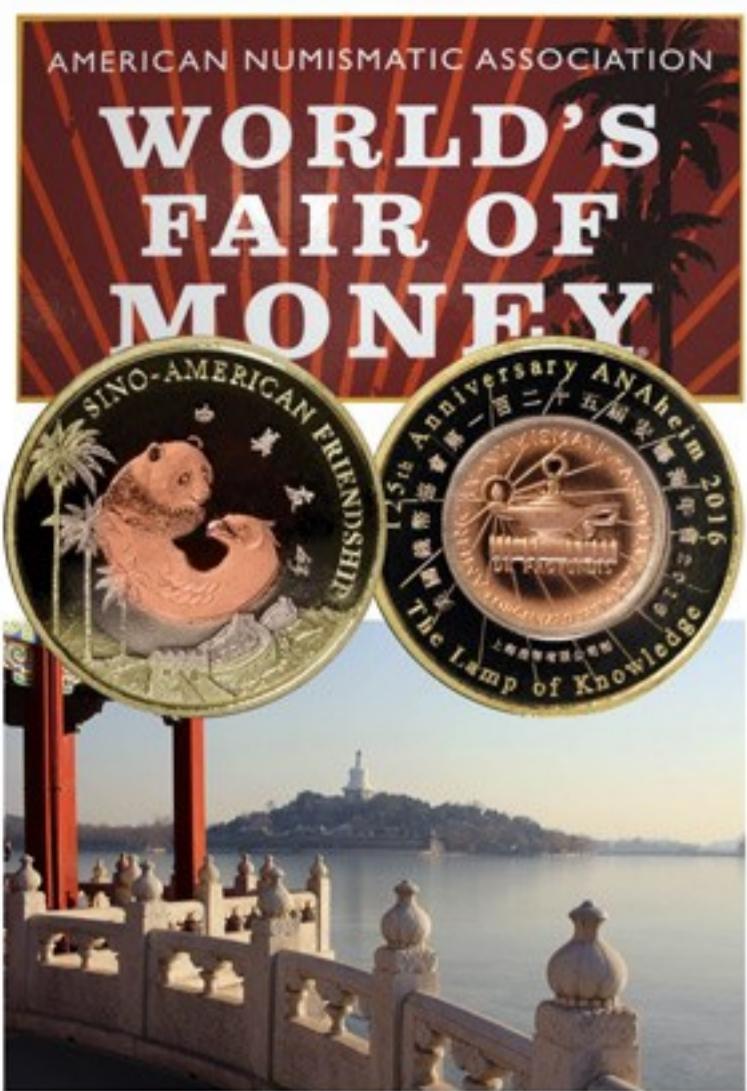
Posted by Peter Anthony on 10/11/2016

*Olympic Participation Medals and Show Pandas exemplify the spirit of friendship.*

One of the wonderful aspects of coin collecting is the opportunity to make new friends from around the world. Numismatics brings people from any and all cultures together. The recent ANA World's Fair of Money Convention in Anaheim was a perfect example. Not only did collectors and dealers attend, but there were some fascinating world coin exhibits.

For example, I learned about Olympic Participation Medals. These were distributed at every modern Olympic Game, including the 2008 games in Beijing. The exhibit described them as, "Olympic Participation Medals (OPMs) are sometimes referred to as the "other Olympic Medals". Unlike the highly coveted winner's medals, they are rarely if ever seen on television. However, since OPMs are awarded to all athletes, judges and officials, they exemplify the spirit of participation set forth by Baron Pierre de Coubertin, founder of the modern Olympic Games who told us, "The important thing in life is not victory, but struggle. The essential is not to have won, but to have fought well."

Participation and friendship have also been celebrated in coins, medals and Show Pandas issued by China. This includes a 2016 Show Panda from the Shanghai Mint for the 2016 ANA Convention. It is not nearly as well-known as the 1 oz. gold and the 1 oz. and 12 oz. silver Show Pandas that were sold to the public in Anaheim, but it qualifies as a Show Panda, too. On one face it shares the same design as the gold and silver issues. The ANA logo is in the center surrounded by "125th Anniversary Anaheim 2016" in English and Chinese just inside the rim.



2016 Show Panda.

The other face of this Show Panda features a unique design. Like a mythological creature an eagle and Panda are merged into one. Below them sits the Great Wall of China together with palm trees, a common sight in Southern California. "Sino-American Friendship" is written in English and Chinese.

Sino-American Friendship was first celebrated on a Show Panda nearly 30 years earlier. In 1987, the 16th New York International Numismatic Convention offered 1 oz. gold and 1 oz. platinum Pandas on this theme. These two Shanghai Mint products have received extra attention in recent years because their design shows the Manhattan skyline with the Twin Towers. 2,000 gold and 1,000 of the platinum Show Pandas were struck.

That same year a 5 oz. silver Sino-American Friendship Show Panda was minted for the ANA convention in Atlanta. One year later, the 1988 New York International Coin Exposition offered a 1 oz. palladium Sino-American Friendship themed Show Panda. And that was the last Sino-American Friendship Panda until 2016. It is good to see old ties between numismatists renewed.

If you have the opportunity to visit any of the mints in China, you will find that the desire for friendship between China and the USA is very real there. It is nice to once again have a new Show Panda that expresses this mutual regard. We can all hope for more international cooperation and a bright numismatic future for both

*Peter Anthony is an expert on Chinese modern coins with a particular focus on Panda coins. He is an analyst for the [NGC Chinese Modern Coin Price Guide](#) as well as a consultant on Chinese modern coins.*

## Articles List

*NGC is the Official Grading Service of*



*NGC is an Approved Grading Company of*



[View All >](#)



[Careers](#) [Legal](#) [Privacy Policy](#) [Security Center](#) [Sitemap](#) [Terms](#) [Affiliates](#) [Contact](#)

© 2018 Numismatic Guaranty Corporation



[Sign In](#)[Join NGC](#)[out](#)[Coin Grading](#)[NCS Conservation](#)[Submit](#)[News](#)[Resources](#)

# From the NGC Archives: 1855 Bronze Pattern Cent J-168, P193

Posted on 10/11/2016

*The 1850s were a decade in which the US Mint made many experiments with the nation's coinage.*

Each sought to create a new coin that would fill a specific role or would result in some improvement to the existing types.



*Click images to enlarge.*

The large cent was already heading toward obsolescence at the time patterns of this type were designed in 1854. A compromise was sought with this type by somewhat reducing both its diameter and thickness, yet the entire project was ultimately doomed by the more practical small cent. This specimen dated 1855 has been attributed as bronze, which would make it one of the post-1860 restrikes. Extremely well struck from clashed dies, this charming coin is richly detailed. It displays bright, very clean surfaces and delightful woodgrain toning.

Are you interested in learning more about these coins? Click [here](#) to visit the NGC Coin Explorer and read on.

[Articles List](#)

NGC is the Official Grading Service of

AMERICAN  
NUMISMATIC  
ASSOCIATION



NGC is an Approved Grading Company of

SIXBID.COM  
EXPERTS IN NUMISMATIC AUCTIONS

MA•SHOPS  
Collector Online Mall

ebay

[View All >](#)



 **NCS**<sup>®</sup>  **PMG**<sup>®</sup>  **CGC**<sup>®</sup>  **CCS**<sup>®</sup>  **ASG**<sup>™</sup>  **CERTIFIED COLLECTIBLES GROUP**



[Careers](#) [Legal](#) [Privacy Policy](#) [Security Center](#) [Sitemap](#) [Terms](#) [Affiliates](#) [Contact](#)

© 2018 Numismatic Guaranty Corporation

# NGC Highlights in Maison-Palombo SA 2016 Auction 15

Posted on 10/11/2016

*NGC-certified world coins will be shown at Maison-Palombo SA Geneva auction 15, which will be held October 22.*

The Maison-Palombo SA Geneva 2016 auction 15 will be held at the Hôtel Président-Wilson on October 22, 2016. The sale features a number of NGC-certified highlights, including the following lots:

- Lot 50: Aelius (136-138) Aureus - Rome (137), NGC AU★ (5/5 and 5/5) (Fine Style), Starting Price: CHF 60'000
- Lot 58: Faustina II Aureus - Rome (161-176), NGC GEM MS (5/5 and 5/5), Starting Price: CHF 20'000
- Lot 105: Léon Ier (457-474) Solidus - Thessalonique (462 et/ou 466), NGC MS★ (5/5 and 5/5), Starting Price: CHF 8'000



- Lot 222: Angleterre Edouard III (1327-1377) 1 noble d'or 4ème émission « Treaty period » - Non daté (1361-1369) - Calais NGC MS 64, Starting Price: CHF 8'000



- Lot 475: Chine - Canton - Shameen - Concession Française (1861-1945) Epreuve non filigranée du 1 dollar / 1 piastre - Type 1901 - Décrets des 21 janvier 1875, 20 février 1888 et 16 mai 1900. Date imprimée : 31 février 1901 - Sans numérotation., PMG GEM UNC 65\* EPQ, Starting Price: CHF 20'000
- Lot 484: Colombie Etats-Unis de Colombie (1863-1886) Paire d'essais unifaces en bronze doré du 20 pesos or 1873 Paris - Barre, NGC PF 65 CAMEO et PF 65, Starting Price: CHF 6'000



*Click images to enlarge.*

- Lot 494: Corée Yi Hyong (1864-1897) 50 yang - Non daté (vers 1890) - Banque de Chosen - Emission gouvernementale de la ville de Chindo, PMG XF 40, Starting Price: CHF 2,800
- Lot 515: Cuba République de (1962 à nos jours) Piéfort sur flan bruni du 200 pesos or - 1994. Inédit - Unique NGC PF 69 ULTRA CAMEO, Starting Price: CHF 8'000
- Lot 560: Espagne Philippe V (1700-1746) 8 escudos or - 1729 J.J Madrid, Premier buste, spécial à l'atelier de Madrid NGC AU 55, Starting Price: CHF 18'000
- Lot 592: France - Aquitaine Edouard III (1327-1362) Léopard d'or 3ème émission - Juillet 1357, NGC MS 63, Starting Price: CHF 14'000
- Lot 662: France Napoléon Ier (1804-1814) 5 francs type intermédiaire - An 12 A Paris., NGC MS 64, Starting Price: CHF 7'000
- Lot 750: France Napoléon III Empereur (1852-1870) Essai sur flan bruni du 10 francs or tête laurée - 1868 E Paris - Tranche lisse - Différents « Etoile » et « Ancre » entourant le nom du graveur à l'avers, NGC PF 65 CAMEO, Starting Price: CHF 18'000
- Lot 1106: Paraguay République (1811 à nos jours) Epreuve en or du 1 peso - 18xx (vers 1889). Frappé sur un 20 soles or 1863 du Pérou, NGC MS 64, Starting Price: CHF 12'000

- Lot 1213: Russie Nicolas Ier (1825-1855) Epreuve sur flan bruni du 6 roubles en platine - 1834 СПБ Saint-Pétersbourg, NGC PF 64, Starting Price: CHF 30'000
- Lot 1276: Suisse République Helvétique (1798-1803) 32 francs or - 1800 B Berne. Le 32 de la valeur est regravé sur un 16, NGC MS 64, Starting Price: CHF 9'000

For more information about Maison-Palombo SA Geneva auction 15 and to view the auction catalog, visit their website, [maison-palombo-geneve.com](http://maison-palombo-geneve.com).

## Articles List

NGC is the Official Grading Service of



NGC is an Approved Grading Company of



[View All >](#)



[Careers](#) [Legal](#) [Privacy Policy](#) [Security Center](#) [Sitemap](#) [Terms](#) [Affiliates](#) [Contact](#)

© 2018 Numismatic Guaranty Corporation

United States



# NGC-graded Coins Featured in Geneva Sale

Posted on 10/7/2016

*NGC-certified coins will be featured at the October NumisOr auction.*

NumisOr of Geneva, Switzerland will be offering 644 coins for sale at their October auction. The sale features mostly NGC-certified world coins including the following highlights:

- Lot 22 – [Austria 1908, 100 Corona, King's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Reign, NGC PF 63 Cameo](#). Estimate 11,000 CHF (US \$11,209)
- Lot 35 – [Brazil 1727, 20,000 Reis, NGC MS 64](#). Estimate 9,500 CHF (US \$9,681)
- Lot 77 (shown below) - [Canada 1916, Sovereign, NGC MS 61](#). Estimate 13,000 CHF (US \$13,247)



*Click image to enlarge.*

- Lot 81 – [Chile Valdivia 1670, 8 Reales, NGC AU 50](#). Estimate 4,500 CHF (USD \$4,585)
- Lot 83 – [China Chihli Province, Year 22 \(1896\), 10 Cents, NGC MS 63](#). Estimate 8,000 CHF (US \$8,152)

- Lot 98 (shown below) – [China Kwangtung Province 1890-1908, Dragon Dollar, NGC MS 63](#). Estimate 5,000 CHF (US \$5,095)



*Click image to enlarge.*

- Lot 170 – [Essequibo & Demerary 1816, 3 Guilders, NGC MS 63](#). Estimate 4,500 CHF (US \$4,585)
- Lot 242 – [Great Britain 1691, 5 Guineas, NGC AU 55](#). Estimate 20,000 CHF (US \$20,381)
- Lot 289 – [Great Britain 1863, Sovereign, NGC AU 58](#). Estimate 13,000 CHF (US \$13,247)
- Lot 291 (shown below) – [Great Britain 1839, 5 Pounds “Una & the Lion”, NGC PF 61 Ultra Cameo](#). Estimate 150,000 CHF (US \$152,859)



*Click image to enlarge.*

- Lot 305 – [Great Britain 1917, Sovereign, NGC MS 62](#). Estimate 15,000 CHF (US \$15,285)
- Lot 325 – [Guatemala 1785, 8 Escudos, NGC AU 50](#). Estimate 16,000 CHF (US \$16,305)
- Lot 394 – [India 1911, 1/2 Rupee George V “Pig Type”, NGC MS 64](#).

Estimate 8,000 CHF (US \$8,152)

- Lot 437 (shown below) – [Mexico 1713, 8 Escudos, NGC MS 64](#). Estimate 9,000 CHF (USD \$ 9,171)



*Click image to enlarge.*

- Lot 439 – [Mexico 1763, 8 Escudos, NGC AU 58](#). Estimate 8,000 CHF (US \$8,152)
- Lot 519 – [Russia 1781, 1/4 Rouble, NGC MS 65](#). Estimate 6,000 CHF (US \$6,114)
- Lot 520 – [Russia 1778, 1/2 Rouble, NGC MS 64](#). Estimate 6,000 CHF (US \$6,114)
- Lot 562 – [South Africa 1924, Sovereign, NGC MS 65](#). Estimate 15,000 CHF (USD \$ 15,285)
- Lot 634 – [Tibet 1918, 20 Srang, NGC MS 62](#). Estimate 4,500 CHF (US \$4,585)

The auction will be held on October 21, 2016 at the Feldman Galleries in Onex, Geneva. Lots are available for viewing and pre-bidding online at [numisor.ch](#).

[Articles List](#)

NGC is the Official Grading Service of

AMERICAN  
NUMISMATIC  
ASSOCIATION

P·N·G

NGC is an Approved Grading Company of

**VC**oins

[SIXBID.COM](#)  
EXPERTS IN NUMISMATIC AUCTIONS

**ebay**

[View All >](#)



# NGC Highlights in Polish Auction

Posted on 10/3/2016

*NGC-certified coins will be available at Niemczyk Antykariat Numizmatyczny's October sale.*

Niemczyk Antykariat Numizmatyczny of Warsaw, Poland will feature NGC-certified coins for sale at their October auction. The sale includes a wide variety of ancient, world and US coins including the following NGC highlights:

- Lot 7 - Pamphylia, Aspendos, 4th-3rd century B.C., Stater, NGC AU, Strike 4/5, Surface 3/5. Starting price 2,000 PLN (USD \$ 525)
- Lot 31 (shown below) - Poland, Prussia, 1585, 3 Grosz, NGC MS 63. Starting price 10,000 PLN (USD \$ 2,598)



*Click images to enlarge.*

- Lot 36 - Poland, Lithuania, 1585, Taler, NGC MS 62+. Starting price 30,000 PLN (USD \$ 7,862)
- Lot 84 (shown below) - Poland, Danzig, 1647, 2 Ducat, NGC MS 63. Starting price 120,000 PLN (USD \$ 31,449)



*Click images to enlarge.*

- Lot 130 - Poland, 1670, 2 Ducat, NGC AU Details. Starting price 15,000 PLN (USD \$ 3,931)
- Lot 158 - Germany - Saxony, 1745, Ducat, NGC MS 62. Starting price 15,000 PLN (USD \$ 3,931)
- Lot 244 (shown below) - Poland, 1837, 20 Złotych, NGC MS 63. Starting price 50,000 PLN (USD \$ 13,103)



*Click images to enlarge.*

- Lot 293 - Russia, 1776, 10 Roubles, NGC AU 55. Starting price 10,000 PLN (USD \$ 2,598)
- Lot 343 - Russia, 1898, Rouble, NGC MS 62. Starting price 3,000 PLN (USD \$ 779)
- Lot 356 - Poland, 1933, 10 Złotych, NGC MS 63. Starting price 8,000 PLN (USD \$ 2,078)
- Lot 358 - Poland, 1934, 10 Złotych, Silver klippe, NGC PF 63 Cameo. Starting price 10,000 PLN (USD \$ 2,598)
- Lot 376 - Danzig, 1923, 25 Gulden, NGC PF 63 Cameo. Starting price 20,000 PLN (USD \$ 5,241)

- Lot 392 (shown below) - Poland, 1927, Silver 2 Zlotych, NGC MS 62.  
Starting price 8,000 PLN (USD \$ 2,078)



*Click images to enlarge.*

The auction will be held on October 22, 2016 at the Westin Hotel in Warsaw, Poland. Niemczyk Antykwariat Numizmatyczny will also be accepting bids via telephone and fax, as well as for pre-sale online at [aukcjamonet.pl](http://aukcjamonet.pl).

## Articles List

NGC is the Official Grading Service of



NGC is an Approved Grading Company of



